

Statement of William “Bill” Kilbride
Nominee to the Tennessee Valley Authority Board of Directors
U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee
Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety
June 11, 2019

Chairman Braun, Ranking Member Whitehouse, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I am honored to have been nominated by President Trump to serve on the Tennessee Valley Authority Board of Directors.

I began my career in financial services in New York, in positions largely centered on matters of finance, corporate planning and corporate technology, before taking an executive position with Mohawk Industries, one of the largest manufacturers and employers in the southeastern United States.

My family and I have been in Chattanooga, Tennessee ever since this move in 1992. In these years, I have intimately learned a great deal about the area, its residents and their needs.

With Mohawk, I learned personally about the importance of low cost and reliable energy in a large scale manufacturing business. Competing in a global economy requires companies to locate and create jobs where they can function most efficiently and cost-effective.

At a point in time, I was asked to serve as the first Global Sustainability Officer for the company. This was a new field for me, but I began to learn more about corporate and community sustainability responsibilities and grew to be very invested in this role. This innovative thinking led Mohawk to begin a program that has grown to reclaim more than three billion plastic bottles each year and repurpose them into polyester fibers that could simultaneously increase profits for the company while decreasing adverse environmental impacts of plastic bottles at landfills across the country. Since 1999, Mohawk has diverted over 30 billion bottles from landfills.

After retiring from Mohawk in 2014, I accepted the position as president of the Chattanooga Area Chamber of Commerce, where, as the name implies, I worked with counterparts across Tennessee as well as in Georgia and Alabama to entice and attract businesses to grow or locate in this region. The purpose of that work was to add jobs to our communities and strengthen the economic base of the region.

I will mention that one critical initiative, which came from our efforts at the Chamber to grow the economic base, was the undisputed importance of focusing on workforce readiness of our older workforce and youth and aligning our community leaders, educators and businesses in this goal. While I've completed my service at the Chamber of Commerce, I continue to work with companies, non-profit organizations, two local universities, and community leaders in each of these critical endeavors.

I have served on boards, both public and private, and assisted management in developing plans for their future by serving in advisory capacities hoping to contribute to their base of experience. This experience, coupled with my own involvement in executive management working with a corporate board on the other side, has provided me valuable knowledge of the value of this structure and the most efficient ways to operate.

I would also like to mention that in my free time over the years and since again retiring from the Chamber, a primary pastime of mine has been traveling the Tennessee River – over 300 miles each year. This has given me great appreciation for the importance of the waterways and surrounding geography to the residents and visitors of the Valley as well as the environmental responsibility to protect such an asset.

I mention these segments of my background to say that my careers, together with the interests and passions I have, align with the mission of the Tennessee Valley Authority. The production of low cost, reliable power, participation in economic development in its region, and the environmental sustainability of the Tennessee Valley continue to be as important, or even in some ways more important today, than they were in 1933.

If confirmed, I would readily take on the task of continuing these vital objectives into the 21st century, working with the rest of the TVA Board and management team.

Thank you very much for allowing me to come before the committee today and I look forward to answering your questions.